

NAOKO – Jazz Vocalist

From an early age, NAOKO developed a deep connection with gospel music. After winning the prestigious Yoyogi NARU audition, she embarked on her professional career. She studied under renowned vocalists such as Chieko Sano and the late Yukio Rokkaku, and after moving to the U.S., she continued her training with Jannet Hammer.

Following years of live performances, she returned to Japan in 2009 and established herself in Tokyo's jazz scene, captivating not only jazz aficionados but a wide range of listeners. In 2012, she released her mini-album No One Else, which reached the No.1 spot in the jazz sales rankings at Tower Records Shibuya.

Currently, she is enrolled in Berklee College of Music's Online Program, where she has consistently earned a place on the Dean's List for academic excellence. In addition to performing at jazz festivals and various events, she is the host of Luxury Time – NAOKO's Swingin' Weekend, a radio program on Komae FM.

NAOKO has also graced high-profile music events, including those produced by world-renowned designer Junko Koshino and the Christmas illumination ceremony at Shinjuku's iconic Southern Tower Terrace. On May 7, 2025, she is set to perform a special live concert at Shibuya JZ Brat, sharing the stage with internationally acclaimed musicians: pianist Hakuei Kim, bassist Kengo Nakamura, and drummer Gene Jackson.

With every note she sings, NAOKO brings warmth and sincerity, embracing her audience with heartfelt lyrics and vibrant rhythms. Her music is a celebration of human connection, enveloping listeners in a tender and soulful embrace.

